

ex officio. Upon recommendation of the nine at-large Trustees, the Secretary of Agriculture appoints the Executive Director (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 2-501 through 2-515).

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### OFFICE OF FOOD SAFETY & CONSUMER SERVICES

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Archibald B. Park, D.V.M., *Assistant Secretary  
for Food Safety & Consumer Services*

50 Harry S Truman Parkway  
Annapolis, MD 21401 (410) 841-5782

The Office of Food Safety and Consumer Services began in 1973 as the Division of Animal Industries within the Department of Agriculture. By 1978, the Division was renamed the Office of Animal Health and, by 1980, the Office of Animal Health and Consumer Services. The Office was reorganized under its present name in 1992.

The Office directs four sections: Agricultural Statistics Service; Animal Health; Egg Inspection, Grading and Grain; and Weights and Measures. The Assistant Secretary also oversees the State Board of Inspection of Horse Riding Stables and the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners.

#### STATE BOARD OF INSPECTION OF HORSE RIDING STABLES

Virginia B. Thackeray, *Chair*, 1996  
Robin Miller, *Inspector*  
(410) 841-5861

Formed in 1968, the State Board of Inspection of Horse Riding Stables transferred from the Department of Licensing and Regulation to the Department of Agriculture in 1980 (Chapter 474, Acts of 1968; Chapter 618, Acts of 1980). The Board licenses all horse riding stables where one or more horses or ponies are let for hire to be ridden or driven. It also licenses sales barns, establishments that stable five or more horses for pay or where five or more horses are sold annually.

With the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture, the Board may appoint a qualified inspector and designate officers of county humane societies, societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals, and licensed veterinarians to act as its agents and make inspections.

The Board consists of five members appointed to four-year terms by the Governor with the advice of the Secretary of Agriculture. Authorization for the Board continues until July 1, 2001 (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 2-701 through 2-719).

#### STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS

Melvin D. Howard, D.V.M., *President*, 2000  
Beverly A. Raymond, *Inspector*  
(410) 841-5862

The State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners dates to 1894 (Chapter 273, Acts of 1894). The Board examines candidates for licenses to practice veterinary medicine in the State and judges their qualifications. Annually, it registers veterinarians and inspects veterinary hospitals. Upon complaints of illegal or unethical practices or sanitary violations, the Board may conduct hearings and pass judgment upon the charges. Court proceedings may be instituted by the Board against persons engaged in illegal practices.

The Board has seven members. They are appointed to five-year terms by the Governor upon recommendation of the Secretary of Agriculture and with Senate advice and consent. Authorization for the Board continues until July 1, 2001 (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 2-301 through 2-313).

#### VETERINARY TECHNICIAN COMMITTEE

Irving E. Herling, D.V.M., *Chair*  
(410) 841-5862

In 1984, the Veterinary Technician Committee was organized as part of the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (Chapter 640, Acts of 1984). Subject to Board approval, the Committee registers and regulates veterinary technicians. It determines the qualifications for applicants, recommends the content and form of examinations, and establishes continuing education requirements for veterinary technicians. The Committee also defines duties and responsibilities of registered veterinary technicians.

The Committee's seven members are appointed by the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, with approval of the Secretary of Agriculture.

#### AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

M. Bruce West, *State Statistician*  
(410) 841-5740

The Agricultural Statistics Service originated as the Statistical Reporting Service in the mid-19th century and received its present name in 1986. The Service collects, summarizes, and publishes data relating to the production and marketing of agricultural products, agriculture prices and income, and other statistics pertinent to agriculture and agribusiness. State statistics generally are available for acreage, yield, and production of major field crops, vegetables, fruits, livestock, and poultry; and monthly and seasonal or annual average prices, farm expenditures, and labor. For some commodities the Service also compiles county statistics.

The Service issues the following publications: